

clash at hand-out meeting

MORE THAN £900 WAS RAISED BY THE EARLSDON VILLAGE FESTIVAL; AND AT A PUBLIC MEETING ON 21st MAY, CHAIRMAN GRAHAM PARTRIDGE ANNOUNCED HOW THE MONEY WAS TO BE USED.

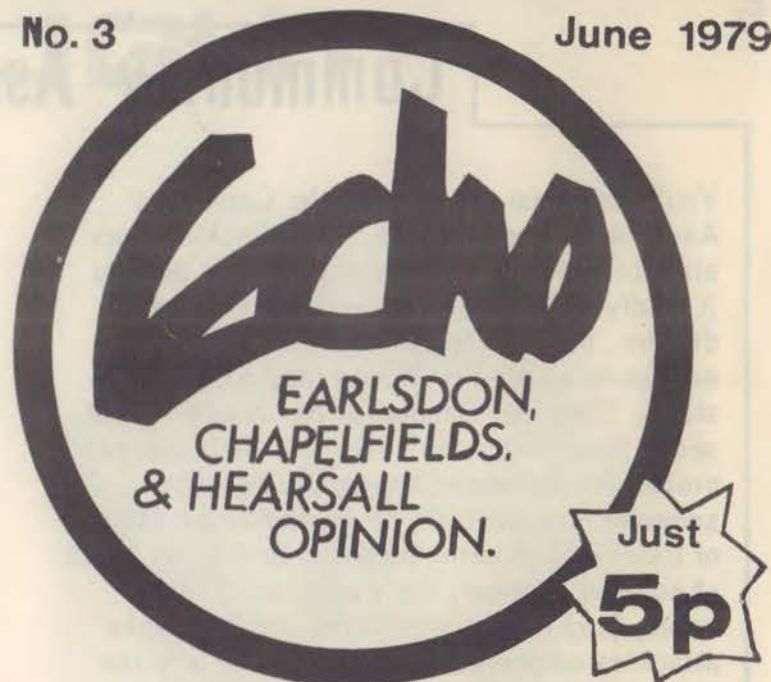
The Festival, held to mark Earlsdon's 125th Anniversary in 1978, was only expected to cover its costs. In the event the profit caused the organisers some embarrassment, for they had to decide how to give it away.

Applications were received from twenty-three voluntary groups. Of these, several were rejected because they did not fit the criteria set by the organisers; groups had to be local and not have access to national funding.

THE LARGEST SINGLE SUM ESTIMATED AT £250 IS TO BE SET ASIDE FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF TWO BENCHES SITED IN EARLSDON STREET.

But that is dependent on two things; whether suitable sites can be found, and if the city council will accept responsibility for maintenance.

The announcement caused some concern at the public meeting with fears of vandalism expressed, but this was outweighed by the arguments in favour of the benches. A clash occurred towards the end of the meeting when Mrs. Violet Randle, president of the Broadway Youth Club, claimed that the Community Association should not have been given £150 as she understood that the Association had already received a £200 grant from the Council. This was quickly and strongly denied by the Community Association chairman, Warren Redman. "No money, apart from £25 two years ago, had been received from any outside source," he affirmed.



Flashback to the Festival

Grants ranged from £10 - to the Townswomen's Guild who had only asked for £4 to enter the Coventry Carnival - to the £150 for the Community Association who had asked for £360. A proportion of this sum will be spent on ECHO, with the rest going towards helping new groups to form and setting up meetings on issues of local importance.

The meeting finished on a high note when speakers were warm in their commendations of the way in which the festival organisers had gone about their task. But the fact remains that dissension between groups can easily be caused by people over-anxious to protect their own spheres of interest. The only answer is for an open and frank discussion between all parties concerned with the future of the area.

See back page for sums granted

Community Association News

You'll see from page 1 that the Community Association doesn't have strong backing from all sections of our community. That's putting it mildly. The reason is probably easy to discern, but hard to put right. Some people are easily worried by things they don't understand. They feel threatened by something that seems new. They don't like it if their own pet project is challenged apparently because someone else wants to be involved, but instead of listening, or being prepared to discuss areas of common concern, their reaction is to get upset, bury their heads in the sand, or make attacking comments. Perhaps that is why the Earlsdon Ratepayer's Association don't seem to respond positively to any suggestions we have made to act together and why some people have actually tried to discredit the Community Association by alleging it had secret funds.

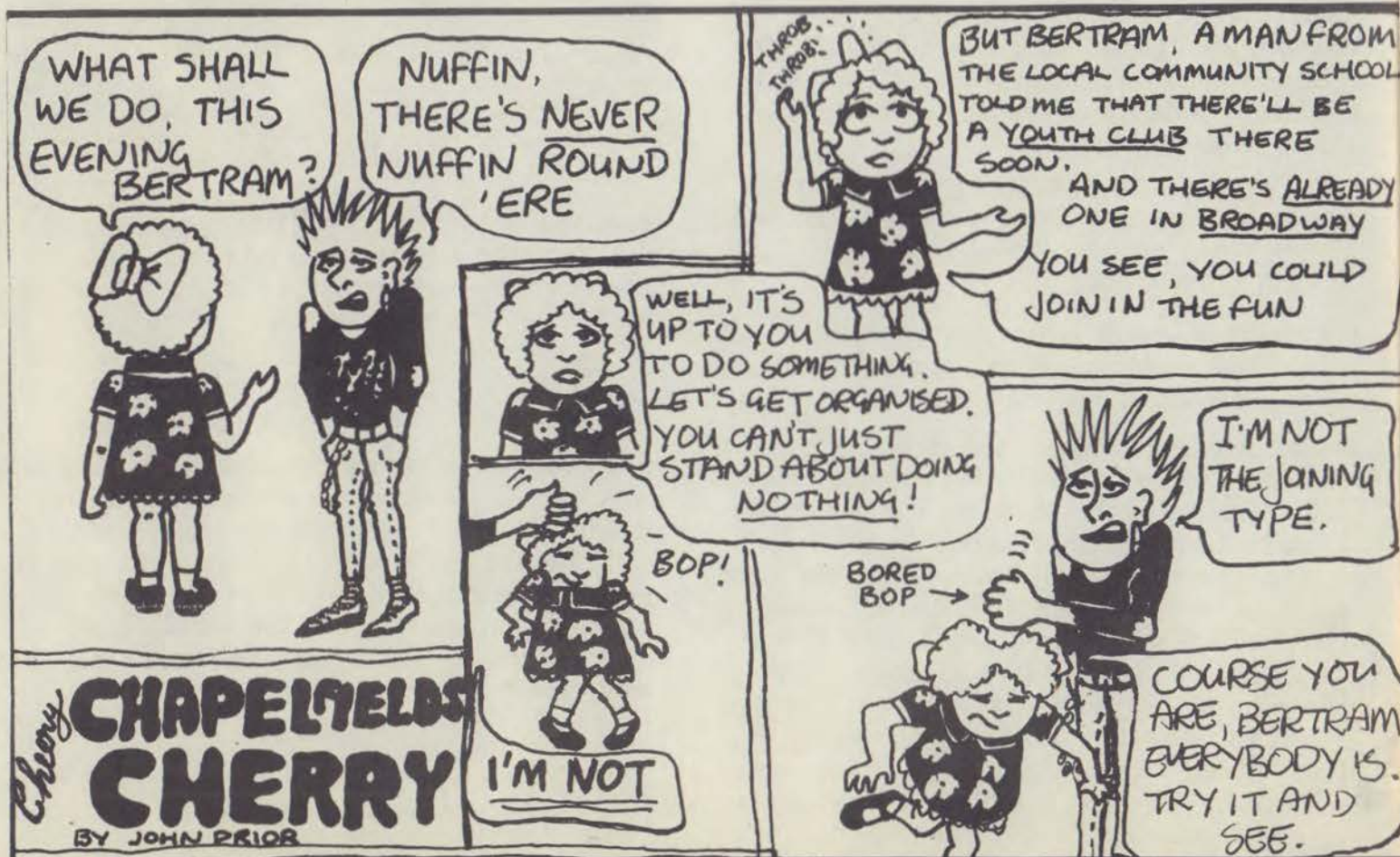
The Community Association is there not to take anybody over, nor to set up anything that

interferes with anything else going on. Our aims are to find out what's going on in our area, inform people about it, see where there are gaps and encourage people to do something about them. For example, we find out what's going on by asking groups and individuals to tell us, and by keeping our eyes open. Then we tell you through ECHO; things like the regular diary of events, or latest news on the Co-op, or the position about improvement grants. We looked for some time at gaps in the provision for young people - and when some willing helpers came forward we simply encouraged them to talk to the youth officer. That's how Broadway got going. We are now exploring the need for neighbourhood care scheme in conjunction with the local Social Services team and another article in this issue describes that. If those activities are endangering anyone else's interests, then let's talk about it. We're looking for a vibrant, happy, self-respecting community, not one where internal squabbling is evident.

GERRARD'S

(opposite Coventry Economic)
FOR ALL BABY & CHILDREN'S WEAR AT
BARGAIN PRICES

IF YOU BUY FROM AN ADVERTISER,
TELL HIM YOU SAW THE ADVERT IN
E.C.H.O.



Mrs. Marie Bates

Nearly a century ago, Charles Corelli Johnson heard a singer whom he thought so enchanting that he declared "If ever I have a little girl, I'm going to name her after that lady."

So it was that the baby girl born on July 5th 1889 in the room above what is now Ormonde's shoe shop in Earlsdon Street, was christened Marie Roze Johnson.

Now, as Mrs. Bates, she still lives in Earlsdon and has a tremendous store of personal anecdotes about the area.

Ten years ago (when she was only 80!) she wrote down some of her memories of old Earlsdon.

And when she reads them out, Mrs. Bates shows some of the warmth, humour and vigour of her own personality that seems to have "Earlsdon's Best" stamped all over it.

When he was only 21, in 1881, her father was appointed the first schoolmaster in Earlsdon by a Board of Governors who included Arthur Pearson, James Walker and Robert Waddington, three of the earliest 'settlers' of Earlsdon. Her father's first job was to go and canvass for his pupils! He found forty and they had to turn up with their own slates. The schoolmaster's annual salary was £80.

Mrs. Bates has a stream of fascinating stories about Earlsdon. She remembers the first school caretaker, Tommy Fletcher. He was also the postmaster in Providence Street and never cut his hair. When Tommy's donkey died he buried it in the garden and, relates Mrs. Bates with a twinkle in her eye, that donkey is now under Hawkes' shop. Mrs. Bates also remembers the original landlord of the City Arms, Mr. Merryfield, and, of course, Ma Cooper herself.



Photo by Les Hill

And what does Mrs. Bates think of Earlsdon now? "Well, it's a disappointment to me, my dear." And you can see how she feels about some of the changes. "I nearly cried when I saw they had pulled down White's Cottages." Mrs. Bates recalled that the cottages had been built by the watchmaker, Joseph White, for his workmen.

Mrs. Bates married three times, and has lived in Spencer Avenue for about fifty years. Now she can seldom get about unless friends or relatives take her in a car. But she hopes to be able to get to Ormonde's on July 5th to buy a pair of shoes at the very site she was born in 90 years ago to the day.

PETER & AVERIL KENNEDY
For Beers, Wines and Spirits.
GOOD CHEER CELLARS
112, Berkeley Road South

DRY ROT,
DAMP COURSE

WOODWORM TREATMENT

Estimates free. 30 year protected guarantee
Tel: Day 613113, Night 78738.

Kilrot

ORMONDE Shoes Ltd

28, Earlsdon Street. Tel: 73782

FITTING FOOTWEAR FOR THE WIDER
FOOT

Elmdale Van-Dal Lotus 'K'
Gents Leather Sandals

Dear Echo...

your letters page.

Complaints

"I have read the first ECHO's with great interest and hope to help in activities in the neighbourhood whenever possible.

"I am very interested in the area where I live, namely Fife Road and Hearsall Common.

"Several residents in Fife Road help to pick up the litter, and one of the neighbours keeps the garden tidy and planted outside the Baptist Church.

"Since living here for four years I have enjoyed the pleasant outlook from my house. Sad to say the condition of the corner of Hearsall Common has deteriorated. I did contact the Parks Dept. two years ago and they mended the fence and tidied up. The fence now needs replacing. One of the problems is the telephone kiosk. The general public like to dart across from Tile Hill Lane, over the rose beds and through the broken fence to the phone. May I suggest that a path be laid down across the rosebeds to make a permanent path.

"Another addition which would help to keep the corner tidy would be a large waste-paper bin near the telephone box which might encourage some people to drop their litter in.

"Hoping that these suggestions can be carried out."
C.J. Berry (Mrs.), Fife Rd.

A spokesman from the Recreation Dept. replies:

"The fence in question suffers wear and tear from being near a school bus pick-up point and can only be repaired rather than replaced in the foreseeable future due to cost. Also, the area's small staff are working at full stretch at present. Placing a litter bin by the phone kiosk is possible, but bins tend to disappear. Putting a footpath across the rosebeds would have to be a Committee decision." (One of your ward Councillors might be able to help with this).

Congratulations!

"I attended the Public Meeting on the 21st May of the Earlsdon Village Festival and would like to congratulate and thank the organisers and Committee for giving their time and effort to this Festival.

"It is a credit to the organisers that they were able to meet all expenses and then finish with a surplus of cash.

"I was very pleased that the organisers decided that some of this amount should be allocated to provide seats in Earlsdon Street as a memento of this event, which I am sure will be greatly appreciated by elderly people, and then further cash to support other worthy organisations within the area.

"I would like to say how much I enjoyed the Earlsdon Festival Exhibition. I have been around this area since the early 1920's and it recalled to me many happy events, and some before my time. I think that this must have aroused memories for many of the local residents.

"I have seen Earlsdon shopping centre (affectionately known to the elderly residents as the "Village") pass through various stages of development and would like to see the trend continue towards making this a worthy and lively shopping centre for everybody."
Albert W.A. Brooks, Queensland Ave.

Thank you

"I would like to thank all the people who came to my assistance when I was knocked down on the zebra crossing in Earlsdon Street on April 30th.

"I have no way of knowing who they were, but I would like them to know how much I appreciated their kindness."

P.M. Lawrence (Miss)
Berkeley Road South.

GINGER CRAFTS

13, Broomfield Road, Earlsdon.
Tel: Cov. 713536

Earlsdon's Newest Handicrafts Materials Shop
From Tapestry to Basket Cane:
Fur Fabric to Macrame Beads:
Lots to see - Why not come and browse.
Open Mon-Sat 9.30am-5.30pm
CLOSED ALL DAY ON THURSDAYS

We welcome your letters. Here is a chance to air your views on local matters. Please address your correspondence to:
ECHO Editorial Committee,
c/o Earlsdon Library,
Earlsdon Avenue North.

OPINION

Man's Best Friend?

"Don't get me wrong - I love all animals, and in particular dogs. However, any pet is a responsibility, just as a child is, and should not be taken lightly. For every environment there is a suitable size and type of pet, but it seems that for various reasons some people in this area choose to ignore that.

"Every day in the areas of higher density housing within Earlsdon - Chapelfields - Hearsall there seems to be more dogs roaming the streets, either singly or in groups. The dogs cause a considerable traffic hazard - particularly on Earlsdon Avenue North - foul the jetties and pavements, tear open bags of refuse and are a potential danger to children. Also, I'm no prude, but I don't relish the sight of two dogs in coitus blocking my way down a jetty, as happened the other day.

"Naturally, I am NOT blaming the dogs; it is hardly their fault that anti-social and irresponsible owners allow them to cause a nuisance. So let me suggest to such owners that they take their responsibility to their pets seriously and look after them properly - including reasonable confinement, decent food and shelter, regular walks and a bit of love too! Also, if you are thinking of getting a dog, please think very carefully about it first - don't allow your dog to become locally another man's worst friend.



"If people choose to ignore this well-meant advice, let me ask - how long will it be before a child is attacked by some of these dogs?... a serious road accident occurs?... a deadly disease is contracted by someone in contact with these dogs? Perhaps the time has come for a stronger line to be taken; why not a series of visits to the area by the Coventry dog-warden who has powers to impound stray dogs? "

(Name and Address withheld at Editorial Committee's discretion)

Do you agree with this letter? Let's have your reactions to this problem. Perhaps some dog owners would like to comment!

JOHN TAYLOR

Specialist of
HOME - FED MEAT

Home-made Pork Sausages ---
5lb for the Freezer - 42p per lb.

JOHN TAYLOR

BACON HAM & COOKED MEATS

Deep freeze orders
supplied

126, Newcombe Road. Tel: 72943

Key cutting, Paint, Garden Supplies,
Hardware, D-I-Y, Electrical Sockets
& Cable

Melbourne Stores

61, Melbourne Road
Try us first and compare our prices
A pleasant surprise awaits you.

ECHO SNIPPETS

Broadway Youth Club

- Needs:
- * Indoor/outdoor sports equipment.
 - * Volunteers, with transport, for swimming and football trips.
 - * Experienced sports organisers.

NEW! Mother, baby and toddler club

Tuesdays 2.00-4.00 p.m.
Hearsall Baptist Church

EARLSDON DAY CLUB

FOR THE
PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED
~ every Wednesday 9.30 a.m.
Earlsdon Methodist Church
Hall ~ New members welcome

Pop your Snippets
into the
ECHO BOX,
Earlsdon Library

Hon. Secretary Wanted
for the Earlsdon,
Chapel Fields, Hearsall
Community Association.
Spare time and organising
ability needed. Join Us;
and make more things
happen. Contact:
Warren Redman, 7½ Newcombe Rd,
Telephone 713385

A Caring Neighbourhood?

Many people living in Earlsdon/Hearsall/Chapel Fields must face problems their neighbours could help with. Often however neighbours don't help, either because they can't or simply weren't asked. Neighbourhood Care Schemes are designed to put those who need odd jobs doing in touch with those who can help.

A pilot Neighbourhood Care Scheme is being set up in Kensington and Westwood Roads. So far about 30 people have been talked to about the scheme; a number of them are very enthusiastic about the idea and two people have volunteered to help get a scheme underway. Although it is still too early to see exactly how the scheme will work out the idea is to compile lists of people willing to help with specific problems eg, baby sitting, shopping, odd jobs etc.

There could then be help by people in the street acting as contact points.

The whole project is going to take some time to get going, but the more help we get the sooner we will be able to help each other. If you can help please contact Barry Graham, the manager of the Social Services Office at 40 Albany Road (at the junction with Kensington Road). Alternatively contact Geraldine Sweeney or John Prior at Spon Gate School Community Education Centre.

Anyone interested in starting similar schemes in their own street(s) is welcome to come to a meeting in the Social Services Office on Thursday 7 June at 7.30. Here they may be able to learn something from the experiences of people in Kensington and Westwood Roads, who are meeting that evening.

E.C.H.O.

ECHO is better with you. Your opinions are welcome; letters or articles should be placed in the ECHO box at Earlsdon library or posted to 77, Newcombe Road.

Snippets - small items of interest, requests for or offers of help, exchanges, etc.-also in the ECHO box.

Help with distribution is especially needed. ECHO is your paper. If you can help in any way, pop your name and address in the ECHO box at the library, or to 33, Centaur Road, Earlsdon.

LOOK

AN ADVERT THIS SIZE COSTS JUST £2.50

Copy date: 20th of previous month

Please contact: Graham Partridge, Earlsdon Lib.

Our G.I.A.

The petition calling for immediate declaration of a large part of the circulation area of ECHO as a General Improvement Area, which was presented to the full Council meeting on 1st May this year by Councillor Len Hilton, will be discussed at the City Council's Housing Committee meeting on Thursday 14th June in the Council House.

These meetings are open to the public, so anyone can go along and listen to the discussions and the decisions made. The meeting starts at 10.00 am and the petition will be dealt with near the beginning. Unfortunately, none of the six Earlsdon or Whoberley Councillors are on the Housing Committee, but Cllr. Hilton will be invited to this meeting to present the petition and explain the situation.

878 people in this area signed the petition, so there is obviously a great deal of support. You can help further by writing to either the City Secretary, or Cllr. David Cairns, Chairman of the Housing Committee, both c/o Council House, Coventry, before 14th June putting your views. We suggest that you also send a copy of your letter to Cllr. Hilton, to help him put his case.



Val & John
at the post-office

BROOMFIELD ROAD, EARLSDON
BEDDING & VEGETABLE PLANTS
HURST SEEDS



Stop Thief!

Unfortunately, this area has been suffering from a spate of burglaries and petty thefts from houses, garages and sheds recently. The Crime Prevention Office suggest a number of precautionary measures for readers to take:

- * Look to your windows and secure them or buy window-locks (cost about 60p) from a good iron-monger.
- * Don't leave door keys in the lock because a burglar can break in through a window and then take larger items out through the door.
- * A deadlocking night latch on a front door locks the handle and bolt on a Yale lock and is more secure. A mortice lock with five levers is even better where there is sufficient wood in the door style.
- * Don't neglect upstairs security - there is very often an easy access from a flat roof or old rain-water tank in this area.
- * Remember to protect valuable goods stored in your garage. A hasp and padlock at ground level is the best way of securing up-and-over doors. Where you have a side access door put power (push) bolts on the main door bottom brackets. The side door itself should have a 5 lever mortice lock. Once your garage is thus secured keep garden tools there rather than in a garden shed.
- * Finally, don't advertise that you are going away on holiday. The Good Neighbour Scheme operated by the police is intended to help prevent burglaries while house owners are on holiday.

For further information or advice, please contact:
Crime Prevention Officer,
Little Park Street Police Station,
Tel: 22211.

START AT THE TOP --
WITH A NEW-LOOK YOU

Mavis
Mavis
Mavis
Mavis
Mavis Hairstylist

195, ALBANY ROAD.
Tel: 74946

PUBCRAWL

N^o 2. The City Arms, Earlsdon

Perhaps to the discerning drinker, the City Arms is no longer strictly speaking a pub, but I felt that this most famous of all Earlsdon hostelrys should be visited. Sadly, the regulars of the old City Arms would not now recognise this Trophy Tavern, once an Earlsdon legend as 'Ma Cooper's'. Long gone are the small intimate bars that I and friends can remember.

Walking into 'Ma Cooper's Bar' it was hard to understand the reason for the name, for apart from the token name board, there was no mention of the famous landlady. It could have been, and was, any Trophy Tavern in the country, serving steaks and insipid beer. The bar is plush and gave one the feeling of a lounge rather than the kind of bar that Ma Cooper once ran. The atmosphere and the beer was exactly the same as anywhere else in the establishment. So why call it Ma Cooper's? The bar was as far removed from Ma Cooper's public as to 'Ray's Bar' in the Leofric. At least some old photos, some more appropriate decor and some real ale would justify the name above the bar door.

We went upstairs for our meal. Service was quick and efficient, the waitress friendly and competent; but when one of our party complained that the steak was tough, the reply was that was to be expected when ordering a steak well-done. The scampi, despite being rather heavy on the batter and light on the scampi was very good value.

All meals come with a bread roll, salad, peas and mushrooms and a choice of chips or jacket potatoes followed by an excellent apple pie and lashings of cream or cheese and biscuits.

At an average price of £3.20 per head the bill was reasonable and the service good; but what a pity not to make more of the memory of Ma Cooper.

FESTIVAL HAND-OUTS

£150	Earlsdon/Chapelfields/Hearsall Community Association
£ 75	14th Coventry Scouts
£ 50	Broadway Youth Club
£ 50	Earlsdon History Society
£ 50	Wisteria Lodge
£ 30	Earlsdon Day Club
£ 30	Earlsdon Old People's Welfare Association
£ 30	Earlsdon Pre-school Playgroup
£ 20	Tea at Two
£ 20	Brown Boot Drama Group
£ 15	Hearsall Women's Institute
£ 10	Earlsdon Townswomen's Guild
£ 10	Coventry Society for the Blind
£ 10	St. Barbara's Playgroup
£ 10	Hearsall Over-50's

Grimmett & Timms Ltd

SILVER GREY ROLLS ROYCE
WEDDING CARS

118, Albany Road, Earlsdon.

thank you

We would like to thank the following shops who have supported ECHO by agreeing to sell it at no profit to themselves, as a service to the community:

NEWSAGENTS

J.C.MADDEN Broomfield Road
P.J.MANNION Broomfield Road
P.A.HAYES Hearsall Lane
A.E.MILLS Earlsdon Street
M.H.& E.M.POYSOR Allesley Old Rd.
C.A.RANBY Mayfield Road
A.L. & G.B.JONES Sovereign Road
FANES Earlsdon Street

OTHER SHOPS

PATRICIA'S Albany Road

MAVIS Albany Road
WHITEARS FISHBAR Centaur Road
E.H.ROLFE Albany Road
GOOD CHEER CELLARS Providence St.
JOY'S TREASURE CHEST Broomfield Rd.
JOHN TAYLOR Newcombe Road
G.R.CLARK Westwood Road
HARVEST WHOLEFOODS Earlsdon St.
CRAVEN STREET POST OFFICE
VAL & JOHN Post Office Broomfield Rd.
EARLSDON STREET POST OFFICE

We would also like to thank others not mentioned here and a number of individuals who have sold ECHO to groups, friends and neighbours. ECHO is available wherever you see an "ECHO on sale here" poster. Please try to ensure that any old or infirm folk you know get a copy.

E.C.H.O. DIARY OF EVENTS

(Please send items for inclusion to Graham Partridge, Earlsdon Library, by 25th of the previous month.)

- June 7th 2.00 pm Tea at Two Clog Dancing Display Hearsall School Bristol Road
- 7th - 10th 'Ring of Fair Flowers' by Earlsdon Flower Club St. Barbara's Church
- 9th 10.00 am - 12.00 noon Coffee, Cakes and Nearly New Sale - for Deprived Children's Holiday Fund Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall
- 13th 7.30 pm Earlsdon Townswomen's Guild 'Cold Sweets and Salads' Earlsdon School
- 13th 7.45 pm 'Woodcarving' - practical demonstration by Doug Pettiphor CIASP Men's Group Common Room St. Mary Magdalen's Church
- 14th 2.00 pm Tea at Two 'Knitting' - talk by staff from E. Clarke's Knitting Shop As above
- 17th 2.00 pm Sponsored Walk Allesley Park In aid of Deprived Children's Holiday Fund Information from St. Mary Magdalen's Church
- 18th 8.00 pm Monday Club 'Let's Talk It Out!' Debate on European Parliament St. Barbara's Church Hall
- 19th 7.45 pm Hearsall W.I. 'Stately Homes of England' - talk by Mrs. P. Jenks Common Room St. Mary Magdalen's Church
- 20th 7.30 pm Teach-in on the work of the Richmond Fellowship for Mental Welfare and Rehabilitation Verecroft 20, Davenport Road Please notify Brian Jones (76763) if you are going to attend
- 21st 2.00 pm Tea at Two Talk by the Marriage Guidance Council As above
- 21st 2.30 pm Chapelfields Townswomen's Guild Danish Food Demonstration Hearsall Baptist Church Hall
- 25th 8.00 pm Theosophical Society 'Wisdom From The Upanishads' - talk by Mrs. L. Thomas 68, Earlsdon Avenue South Interested enquirers welcome
- 26th 8.00 pm 'Any Questions' A panel of experts will answer questions about family life and bringing up children Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall
- 27th 8.00 pm - 12.00 midnight Chicken and Chip Supper Dance - in aid of Broadway Youth Club Spencer Club Albany Road Tickets £1.50 from the Youth Club on Friday evenings
- 27th 2.15 pm Earlsdon Methodist Young Wives 'Fabrics and Fashion' - talk by Miss Gleeson Berkeley Room Earlsdon Methodist Church Hall
- 28th 2.00 pm Tea at Two Re-training Schemes for Young Mums - Films and discussion As above
- July 2nd 8.00 pm Theosophical Society 'The Culture of Ancient Egypt' - talk by Mrs. P. Burgess As above
- 4th 8.00 pm Over 50's Club Fresh Food Cookery Demonstration Hearsall School Bristol Road
- 5th 2.00 pm Tea at Two Fund-raising Fair As above
- 10th 7.30 pm Hearsall W.I. Visit to Whitefriars Monastery Meet at the Monastery
- 11th 2.15 pm Earlsdon Methodist Young Wives Strawberry Tea and Produce Auction. As above